

1997-98 SESSION
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

Committee Name:

Joint Committee on
Finance (JC-Fi)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01a
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01b
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ **

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ 97hrJC-Fi_Misc_pt141_LFB

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **



COUNTY OF MARATHON

COURTHOUSE

500 Forest Street, Wausau, WI 54403-5568

JILL N. FALSTAD
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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April 10, 1997

Assistant District Attorneys
KENNETH J. HEIMERMAN
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MICHAEL D. GRAVELEY

Special Investigator
MATTHEW A. TRIOLO

Victim/Witness Coordinator
GERI HEINZ

Dear Honorable Co-Chairman Senator Burke and
Representative Jensen
Senators: Decker, George, Jauch, Wineke, Shibilski,
Cowles and Panzer
Representatives: Ourada, Porter, Harsdorf, Kaufert,
Albers, Linton and Coggs:

As District Attorney of Marathon County, I am asking you to include in the budget funding for the 47 prosecutor positions being proposed by the Wisconsin District Attorney's Association. Last spring, I was involved in the WDAA Resource Committee review of all budget requests submitted by District Attorneys in the various counties in the State. There are, without a doubt, some very severe needs for additional help by way of additional prosecutors to handle the ever-increasing workloads in many of our offices.

In that regard, I can tell you of my firsthand experience in the Marathon County District Attorney's Office. Included in that request for 47 additional positions is support by the WDAA for 2.5 positions to be allocated to the Marathon County District Attorney's Office. Attached to this letter are charts which demonstrate the increases in a variety of case types that we have had in our office over the past eight years. I start with the reference point of 1988 because that is the last time we added a prosecutor to our staff. As you can see, there have been substantial increases in particular in the felony and misdemeanor caseloads which have almost tripled in that time period. Yet, the same six prosecutors are expected to handle an overwhelming caseload year after year, and do justice. With the volume of cases going through the Marathon County District Attorney's Office, I am deeply concerned that we may not be as effective as we need to be to provide services to victims and to protect the community. Therefore, I urgently request that you support the WDAA's request for an additional 47 prosecutors in this State, including the 2.5 positions for Marathon County.

Sincerely,

Jill N. Falstad
JILL N. FALSTAD
District Attorney

JNF:jv
attachments

FELONY CASES

YEAR	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE + -
1988	223	
1989	254	+ 13%
1990	286	+ 12%
1991	336	+ 17%
1992	371	+ 10%
1993	356	- 4%
1994	408	+ 14%
1995	562	+ 38%
1996	675	+ 20%

1988 Total	223	
1996 Total	675	Increase of 203%
		Average Yearly Increase 23%

MISDEMEANOR CASES

YEAR	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE + -
1988	827	
1989	1088	+ 32%
1990	1159	+ 7%
1991	1518	+ 31%
1992	1354	- 12%
1993	1419	+ 5%
1994	1525	+ 8%
1995	1953	+ 28%
1996	2265	+ 16%

1988 Total	827	
1996 Total	2265	Increase of 174%
		Average Yearly Increase 19%

CRIMINAL TRAFFIC CASES

YEAR	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE + -
1988	532	
1989	569	+ 7%
1990	525	- 8%
1991	719	+ 37%
1992	1074	+ 49%
1993	751	- 43%
1994	750	- .13%
1995	688	- 9%
1996	777	+ 13%

1988 Total	532	
1996 Total	777	Increase of 46%
		Average Yearly Increase 5%

JUVENILE CASES

YEAR	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE + -
1988	Case Breakdown	199
1989	Not Available	225 + 13%
1990	" "	286 + 27%
1991	" "	270 - 6%
1992	Delinquency Truancy	203 <u>15</u> 218 - 24%
1993	Delinquency Truancy	334 <u>27</u> 361 + 65%
1994	Delinquency Truancy	327 <u>65</u> 392 + 9%
1995	Delinquency Truancy	463 <u>65</u> 528 + 35%
1996	Delinquency Truancy	289 <u>79</u> 368 - 43%

1988 Total	199	
1996 Total	368	Increase of 85%
		Average Yearly Increase 9%

1995

LAB TIME AVAILABLE WORKSHEET

1. # of Class A Homicides <u>1</u>	(X 100 hrs per case) =	<u>100</u>
2. # of Class B Homicides <u>1</u>	(X 100 hrs per case) =	<u>100</u>
3. # of Felonies (not homicides) <u>560</u>	(X 8.49 hrs per case) =	<u>4754.40</u>
4. # of Misdemeanors <u>1953</u>	(X 2.17 hrs per case) =	<u>4238.01</u>
5. # of Criminal Traffic <u>688</u>	(X 1.68 hrs per case) =	<u>1155.84</u>
6. # of Juv. Delinquencies <u>463</u>	(X 3.32 hrs per case) =	<u>1537.16</u>
7. # of CHIPS cases <u>65</u> (truancies)	(X 2.61 hrs per case) =	<u>169.65</u>
8. # of TPR cases <u>0</u>	(X 7.00 hrs per case) =	<u>0</u>
9. # of Writs of Habeas Corpus <u>6</u> (est.)	(X 2.00 hrs per case) =	<u>12</u>
10. # of Inquests <u>1</u> (police officers shooting citizens)	(X 64 hrs per case) =	<u>64</u>
TOTAL		<u><u>12131.06</u></u>
(Divide by ¹²²⁷ 1244)		
# of FTE's needed in the office		<u><u>9.89</u></u>

1996

LAB TIME AVAILABLE WORKSHEET

1. # of Class A Homicides <u>2</u>	(X 100 hrs per case) = <u>200</u>
2. # of Class B Homicides <u>1</u>	(X 100 hrs per case) = <u>100</u>
3. # of Felonies (not homicides) <u>675</u>	(X 8.49 hrs per case) = <u>5730.75</u>
4. # of Misdemeanors <u>2265</u>	(X 2.17 hrs per case) = <u>4915.05</u>
5. # of Criminal Traffic <u>777</u>	(X 1.62 hrs per case) = <u>1305.36</u>
6. # of Juv. Delinquencies <u>289</u>	(X 3.32 hrs per case) = <u>959.48</u>
7. # of CHIPS cases <u>79 (truancies)</u>	(X 2.61 hrs per case) = <u>206.19</u>
8. # of TPR cases <u>0</u>	(X 7.00 hrs per case) = <u>0</u>
9. # of Writs of Habeas Corpus <u>6</u>	(X 2.00 hrs per case) = <u>12</u>
10. # of Inquests <u>1</u>	(X 64 hrs per case) = <u>64</u>

TOTAL 13392.83

(Divide by ¹²²⁷~~1244~~)

of FTE's needed in
the office 10.92

Wisconsin Medicaid and Noncitizens

NONCITIZENS WHO ARRIVED IN UNITED STATES BEFORE 8-22-96:

- Noncitizens who are receiving Medicaid based on receiving SSI, will continue to receive Medicaid as long as they are eligible for SSI.
- Noncitizens who lose their eligibility for SSI benefits need to have their eligibility for Medicaid redetermined. The state is currently attempting to simplify the procedures for Medicaid redeterminations. For now, individuals should continue to contact their county or tribal department of social or human services to have their eligibility for Medicaid redetermined.
- Medicaid eligibility is mandated under the new federal law for those who are members of one of the following noncitizen groups, if the individual continues to meet income and asset qualifications:
 - 1) U.S. Veterans, active duty U.S. military, their spouses and dependents;
 - 2) Lawfully admitted permanent residents with 40 quarters of work;
 - 3) Refugees, asylees, and those granted withholding of deportation, for their first five years in the United States.
- Beginning January 1, 1997, federal law provides states the option to continue Medicaid coverage for certain qualified legal noncitizens. Under its state option, Wisconsin Medicaid continues to extend eligibility to all legal noncitizens the state is authorized to cover under federal law.

NONCITIZENS WHO ARRIVE IN THE UNITED STATES ON or AFTER 8-22-96: Five year bar for Medicaid (and other federal means-tested programs) with exceptions

- Noncitizens who arrive in the United States on or after 8-22-96 and who are members of one of the following excepted groups are eligible to apply for Medicaid:
 - 1) U.S. Veterans, active duty U.S. military, their spouses and dependents; and
 - 2) Refugees, asylees, those granted withholding of deportation, for their first five years in the United States.
- All other new noncitizens are barred from Medicaid eligibility for their first five years.
- Beginning in 2001, Wisconsin must provide Medicaid eligibility for lawfully admitted permanent residents with 40 quarters of work history. In addition, the State may elect to cover most other legal noncitizens, including refugees, asylees, and those granted withholding of deportation, after their first five years in the United States.

All noncitizens, including undocumented immigrants, remain eligible for emergency Medicaid services.



Wisconsin Medicaid

My name is Melanie Kirsch. I am the executive director of the Northwoods Alliance, an alliance of lake associations, hunting and fishing groups, environmental groups with more than 3000 members. I own my own commercial agency in the advertising industry and am the author of How to Get Off the Fast Track and Live a Life Money Can't Buy, a massmarket paperback that features Wisconsin as a premier vacation and retirement community.

I am concerned about Governor Thompson's language in the budget regarding mining. It is clearly out of place in the budget and appears to divert attention from the mining moratorium bill. According to the Governor's language, before a permit to mine is granted, the operators of a proposed mine would have to show that a mine will use "proven technology". Under the Governor's proposal, technology that has never been used in a mine could be used to satisfy the "proven technology" requirement, even technology that has only been used in factories or another non-mining situation. The Governor's language would not require any proof that the technology in question has actually worked successfully in a mine of any sort, much less a sulfide metallic mine such as Exxon's proposed Wolf River mine. It also has no requirement that a mining operator prove by example that the technology has worked over a period of time. In contrast, the mining moratorium bill would require a specific example of a metallic, sulfide ore mine that has been operated and reclaimed for 10 years without pollution. The mining moratorium bill has overwhelming public support. Remove this "proven technology" language from the budget because it is vague and meaningless. Allow the mining moratorium bill to pass in the assembly and focus instead on helping to preserve our strong and sustainable Northwoods economy that welcomes environmentally responsible soft industry. Don't betray our priceless beautiful Northwoods. Stop prostituting yourself by selling us off as a mining district.



Northwoods Alliance Vision Statement

Northcentral Wisconsin is a remarkable, beautiful region of sparkling rivers, bountiful lakes and untamed wildlife. Many people from around the Midwest and the nation travel here to enjoy the unique aesthetic, cultural and ecological features that make up the "Northwoods" experience. Although the Northwoods has changed dramatically since European settlement, its ecological integrity still captures the imagination of the casual visitor or long-time resident.

Unfortunately, past and present environmentally degrading activities threaten the ecological integrity that is the basis for the area's natural beauty and a sustainable economy. Plans for more roads, highways and excessive clearcutting of our recovering forests are fragmenting the landscape and depleting habitat for many species of animals and plants such as white cedar and yellow lady slipper. Mercury contamination of lakes and rivers is growing and the permitting of metallic sulfide mines poses a source of toxic pollutants for centuries to come.

In response to these threats, we need a well-informed citizenry committed to fostering a mutually beneficial relationship between local communities and the land. In this spirit, the Northwoods Alliance is formed. Seven local environmental groups have formed in Northcentral Wisconsin since 1992. These groups are run almost exclusively by volunteers and work with shoe-string budgets.

Mission and Goals

The mission of the Northwoods Alliance is to work together as a federation of organizations to protect, restore and enhance the natural ecosystems of northcentral Wisconsin whereby the beauty, integrity and productivity of our lakes, rivers and forests are maintained in perpetuity. To realize this mission, we have identified the following goals:

- 1) To protect water quality and make sure all regional Outstanding Resource Waters, such as the Willow Flowage, receive protection against point-source pollution discharges, as recommended by the DNR staff and supported by a large majority of the public.
- 2) To encourage shared decision-making authority between natural resource agencies and the public for projects that have important ecological and economic impacts.
- 3) To maintain and enhance the native flora and fauna of the region.
- 4) To achieve an ecologically sustainable local economy based primarily upon the sustainable use of renewable resources.
- 5) To achieve a moratorium on metallic sulfide mining in northern Wisconsin until mining technology can unequivocally demonstrate the ability to prevent pollution. To support reuse, recycling and conservation in order to replace the demand for new sources of metals.
- 6) To uphold and respect the unique contributions that diverse interests and cultures provide to our local communities.
- 7) To educate the public and elected officials about threats to the environment and recommend solutions.

THE NORTHWOODS ALLIANCE MMB STATEMENT

MARCH 11, 1997

The Northwoods Alliance is a North Central Wisconsin Alliance of lake associations, hunting and fishing groups, tribal interests and concerned citizens united in our support of a mining moratorium until we are guaranteed Exxon and the mining industry won't contaminate our clean water.

It's all about the little people in little places like Rhinelander and Tomahawk, Wisconsin.

This is a coalition of diverse interests coming together on this issue from an economic and environmental perspective.

Exxon and the mining industry threaten our sustainable economy which is based on renewable resources. We don't want our fish contaminated with mercury. We don't want our groundwater polluted. We don't want to risk toxic spills of truckloads of cyanide. We don't want decades of acid drainage into our wetlands. We don't want boom and bust economies when we already have a thriving sustainable economy that welcomes soft industry.

A big concern of ours is mercury. CMC own pilot study estimates mercury in the pipeline discharge to be 20 times the current water quality based effluent limit. We already have fish advisories on the Wisconsin River because of severe mercury contamination. Mercury bioaccumulates. It does not go away. After years of cleaning up the river, why on earth do we now want to increase contamination?

We are concerned that if Exxon is allowed to dump minewaste from outside Oneida County into the Wisconsin River, it may prohibit future expansion of local industry and Rhinelander municipality which may need future allocation in a river currently fully allocated and rated HIGH for standards violations and impairments.

The Northwoods Alliance is co-hosting a Citizens Mining Forum Wednesday, March 12, 7 to 9pm at the James William Junior High School in Rhinelander.



CHIPPEWA FALLS AREA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
School to Work / Vocational Education Coordinator
Pupil Services Center
1345 Ridgewood Drive
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

TO: Senator Brian Burke, Chair
Joint Committee on Finance

Pauli Nikolay, Assistant Superintendent
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Dr. Linda Cate Dunahee
Assistant Director for Curriculum & Instruction
CESA #10

FROM: Gerald Munyon
STW/Vocational Education Coordinator

DATE: April 29, 1997

RE: Testimony submitted on April 22 responding to only the Biennial Budget
Proposals affecting Elementary and Secondary Education.

This is a final draft to the first draft I submitted as testimony to the Joint Finance Committee Hearing held in Eau Claire on April 22. This testimony represents my responses from the perspective of the local impact of the Budget and recommendations and also the "big picture" statewide impact on School to Work development. I tried to represent both perspectives since I am also a member of the W.A.L.E.W.- Wisconsin Association for Leadership in Education and Work. This is the professional association representing secondary and K-12 individuals involved with School to Work and Vocational Education programs.



CHIPPEWA FALLS AREA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

School to Work / Vocational Education Coordinator

Pupil Services Center

1345 Ridgewood Drive

Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

TO: Members - Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Gerald Munyon, School to Work Coordinator
Chippewa Falls School District

DATE: April 24, 1997

RE: Response to Governor's 1997-99 Budget Recommendations

I wish to respond to only those items from the Governor's Budget Recommendations that would bring the most significant impact to the School to Work and Vocational Education Programs in the Chippewa Falls School District and Chippewa Valley School to Work Consortium of K-12 school districts. My comments are focused on the items titled School to Work Team, Changes to the Statutes of the Department of Workforce Development and the Youth Options Program.

School to Work Team

It has been my task to read and dialogue over the past four months with area School to Work Coordinators and representatives from DPI and DWD regarding the proposed transfer of the 13.00 FTE positions from DPI to DWD. It does become a very logical argument from the perspective that DPI does not want to transfer the 13.00 FTE positions to DWD because it could seriously fragment the School to Work development and leadership efforts now established with K-12 school districts. I am equally understanding that DWD can justify the transfer of the 13.00 FTE positions to establish a more centralized and manageable approach to the Governor's School to Work Agenda and the School to Work Opportunity Act Funding. However, it is my experience that DWD has many more cabinet level powers under the Governor which can further extend additional regulatory powers over K-12 school districts. This is evidenced in the ways that school districts must currently comply with accessing School to Work funding and expanding Youth Apprenticeship Programs. The DPI, in contrast, is viewed as an advocacy agency by the K-12 school districts and shaped by the state constitution with an elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction with a specific mission to address the educational needs of students through a leadership and consultative role to all K-12 school districts in Wisconsin. The transfer of these positions to DWD will certainly be viewed by the already over regulated K-12 school districts as another "master" to watch over us. It is, therefore, my recommendation that the 13.00 FTE positions should remain with DPI to insure the School to Work components of School-based Learning, Work-based Learning, and Partnership Activities are securely integrated into K-12 education.

Changes to the Statutes of the Department of Workforce Development

I support the effort to merge the Education for Employment Standard into a single School to Work Standard, but under the Department of Public Instruction. The seven components of the Education for Employment Standard should be retained and moved into the three components of the new School to Work Standard. This budget recommendation could address a dilemma that exists currently with many K-12 school districts who are struggling to understand if a concept like School to Work must be treated as a separate and very complex structure or should it be viewed as simply an expansion of the Education for Employment Standard.

Youth Options Program

This budget recommendation, I understand, is a very important and debatable issue for both K-12 school districts and technical colleges. The idea of a comprehensive K-14 education pathway for students is being implemented or being considered in other states as a means to bring together the secondary and post-secondary education resources to address the public credibility of the high school diploma. It is my concern, from the viewpoint as a School to Work Coordinator, that the current Youth Options Proposal has too many vague and embedded issues which have not been thoroughly reviewed by a joint task force or committee with representation from both the K-12 and technical college community. The Youth Options Program Proposal does not provide a complete and clear solution to the financial and K-12 enrollment impacts it can impose on K-12 school districts. It should also be reviewed in terms of a timeline to allow K-12 school districts and technical college districts to phase it in over a two or three year period.

This concludes my remarks and response to the Governor's Budget Proposals affecting Elementary and Secondary Education. I thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

PLEASE include
THIS AS Testim-
ony ON BUDGET.

April 29, 1997

Senator Bob Jauch
State Capitol Building, 323 South
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Senator Jauch:

First let me thank you, Rep. Barb Linton, and Frank Boyle for arranging to have the recent video conference at UW-Superior. I am sure the people who attended appreciated the opportunity to testify before members of the Committee on Finance on Governor Thompson's new budget proposal.

Because time was short at the end of the video portion of the testimony, I did not have time to make a few comments on a topic that is important to me. I am concerned about the Health Insurance Risk Sharing Plan. I have participated in this plan for several years because I have been unable to obtain regular insurance for a pre existing condition.

I know that the Governor's budget contains a proposal to move HIRSP from the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance to the Department of Health and Family Services. I feel this move is unnecessary because HIRSP has implemented cost saving measures and managed care for high cost cases. For the first few years that I was in HIRSP (since 1991), premiums increased about 25 to 28 percent a year. Increases have been much smaller recently. I feel that a move to DHFS at this time would cause unneeded confusion for some consumers in HIRSP.

My major concern regarding proposed changes to HIRSP is Governor Thompson's plan to tie reimbursement rates to those received under Medical Assistance. I feel such a move will reduce choice for consumers in the HIRSP. Many providers don't participate in MA because of the low rates. For example, I know of consumers receiving MA who have a difficult time finding a dentist to do preventive care. If this proposal goes through, it will further limit choice for consumers in HIRSP and I oppose it.

There has been some movement on health care nationally. However, this is only a start. Wisconsin needs to look at developing a health care plan that will cover all its citizens. Too many people working for low wages are going without insurance. Wisconsin has been a leader in developing proposals like the Community Options Program (we must end waiting lists). Now it's time for our State to be a leader in health care reform.

Before I close, I would like to comment on the way the Superior hearing was handled. I know it's hard to get everyone in to be heard, especially when there are problems with the video link that we had. However, it was mentioned that some people with disabilities had to leave before testifying because they had to catch a bus or other scheduled ride home. Those people with disabilities who did testify did so at the end of the hearing. It might be better to allow people who are on set transportation schedules or from long distances to testify as early as possible. John Henke, the Ashland High School student who came to the hearing with me, had to stay all day before testifying. He was really looking forward to this experience and then almost didn't get a chance to talk.

Again, thank you for arranging to hold this video conference in Superior. I hope there will be another opportunity like this in the future.

Sincerely,


Stewart Holman

Barron County Land Conservation Department

Agriculture Service Center
Courthouse
Barron, Wisconsin 54812

April 28, 1997

Jon H. Hochkammer
Sergeant at Arms
Wisconsin State Senate
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Mr. Hochkammer:

Myself along with Barron County Land Conservation Committee Chairman, Chris Carlson attended the Budget Hearing of the Joint Finance Committee held in Eau Claire on April 22. Unfortunately, we were not able to attend for the full day and did not have a chance to testify to the committee. Therefore, I am submitting this written testimony for the Joint Finance Committee.

Our concern is primarily with the non point pollution program of the Department of Natural Resources. As you may be aware, this program is now twenty years old. It has been popular, both with the public and the legislature. It has helped many landowners throughout Wisconsin install improvement practices on their farms and other properties and has helped improve the water quality of many streams, lakes and rivers in Wisconsin. However now the program is in serious trouble. A number of years ago, the legislature through the Budget Bill, directed the DNR to begin every priority watershed project in the state of Wisconsin by the year 2015. To meet that statutory requirement, the Department has been starting 5 to 7 new priority watershed projects every year. While these new projects have been coming on line, the budget for the non point pollution program has been going down. Obviously it does not take a rocket scientist to figure out that eventually the program will run out of money. Today, the program has a 17 million dollar deficit. The DNR and the Land and Water Conservation Board have been scrambling for solutions for this dilemma, the only solution that has not been proposed is significant increases in the funding in this program. Therefore, our first message to the joint finance committee is if the non point pollution is to go forward, there is a need for much greater funding.

One issue that has come up in recent years that has affected the non point pollution watershed program financially is urban water quality projects. It is important to address urban runoff in the state of Wisconsin. Urban runoff has a significant impact on the water quality of our lakes and rivers. Rather than additional funding to cover expensive urban projects, the funds have been taken from the rural projects of Wisconsin. We further propose to the Joint Finance Committee that the program be structured so that urban projects are funded separately from rural projects and that both are funded adequately.

There are two items in the governor's budget that concern the members of the Land Conservation Committee in Barron County. First, the governor is proposing to add three additional members to the Land and Water Conservation Board, all three would be appointed by the governor. This would result in a board of thirteen members, ten of which would be appointed by the governor. We feel the public of Wisconsin is not going to be represented when it comes to soil and water conservation issues that come before the Land and Water Conservation Board. The Barron County Land Conservation Committee proposes that either the Land and Water Conservation Board stay the way it is, or that the additional members are in some way elected from the public. The second thing that concerns us in Barron County is that the governor's budget is proposing seven million dollars from the local assistance funds for priority watersheds be transferred to cost sharing. We need cost share monies, but we also need the local assistance monies, especially the projects that are ongoing. The local assistance funds pay for staff and other operational costs. In Barron County, the Yellow River Watershed potentially would lose staff at a point where we have successfully enrolled a large number of landowners to put in water quality practices. We have three years left to install all the practices in hopes of having an impact on water quality of the Yellow River. A staff cut at this time would be devastating to our project.

As you know, Barron County is a northern county. Some believe that all the water quality problems are in the south, this is not the case. There is a great deal of agriculture in Barron County and there is a definite connection between water quality and tourism, and we all know the benefits of tourism to the entire economy of Wisconsin. If we polled the people of Wisconsin, I am sure the majority would agree, that our priorities seem to be backwards. Rather than protecting our environment, we are investing our money in corporate welfare and building baseball stadiums.

We encourage the joint finance committee to take a serious look at the non point watershed program of the state of Wisconsin. It is in great need of your help.

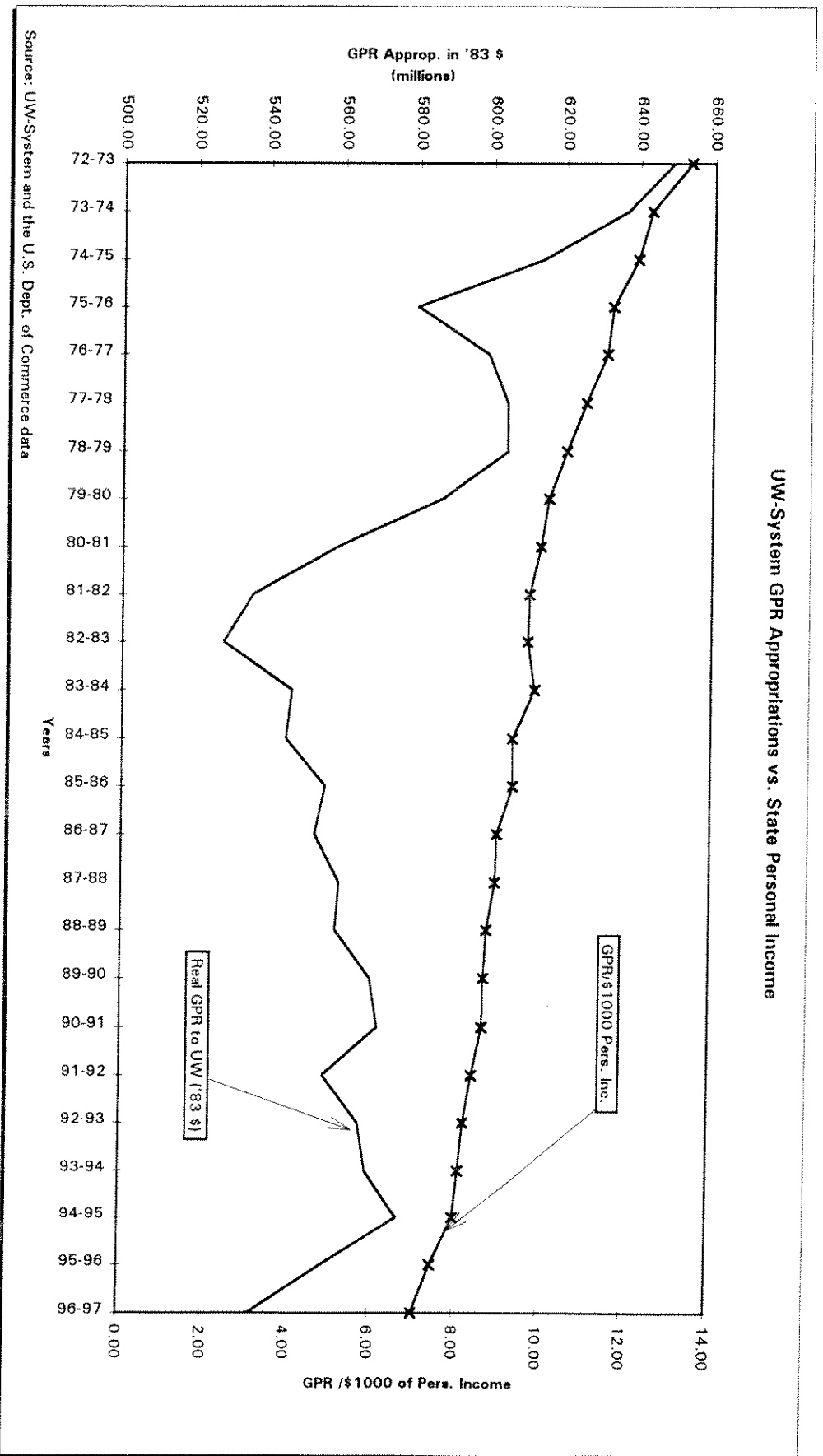
Sincerely,


Dale Hanson,
County Conservationist

cc: Adam Payne, Director
Wisconsin Land Conservation Association

DH/jj

UW - System GPR Appropriations vs. State Personal Income Historical Comparison using 1983 as the base year



Budget Issues Summary State Historical Society of Wisconsin

	97-98		98-99	
	Request	Rec.	Request	Rec.
Museum Security				
Funds for increased security at State Historical Museum.	\$6,100	6,100	6,100	6,100
Library Automation				
The library's circulation system is still manual (i.e. paper check-out slips). This funding allows us to begin computerizing the check-out system, which means eventually bar-coding all circulating books for the third largest library in the state.	\$20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Northern Great Lakes Center				
The Center, which is a joint federal/state facility, will open in less than a year near Ashland. At present, SHSW is the only participating state agency. If adequately staffed by SHSW, it could provide a major boost in our delivery of services to the entire northern tier of counties. (See detail sheet re budget needs).	\$68,100	34,100	165,500	59,800
Special Events Coordinator	--	--	29,200	-0-
The Society sponsors major events (e.g., the John Ford film festival--997 attendees, the recent genealogy conference--600 attendees) each year. At present, the development director is doubling as special events coordinator, resulting in a reduction of time for fund raising.				
Data Processing Manager	--	--	57,700	-0-
This would add a badly needed position to our staff of two in computer services.				

Fuel and Utility Reestimates

We are currently estimating a shortfall of approximately \$69,000 in this fiscal year. Several new SHSV facilities have opened during the past biennium, and they were not fully funded for fuel and utility costs under the last budget. We have no reason to think our projected costs will decrease in the next biennium.

NOTE: *The proposed budget may underestimate our true need by at least \$87,000 in 1997-98.*

Budget Efficiency Measures

The Governor's budget contains specified and unspecified cuts for the Society

Elimination of ½ time library bibliographic position	97-98	Request	Rec.	98-99	Request	Rec.
Elimination of ½ conservation lab position						
Unspecified cuts						

The Society cannot sustain significant budget cuts without eliminating pass-throughs and reducing its work force. The Board of Curators approved and submitted a base reduction plan from which any unspecified cuts will come. The following are not "core" functions, but a number have important constituencies:

Potential Impact of Budget Cuts

1. Elimination of library position
Impact: This position concentrates on providing training and assistance to UW students and faculty who are heavy users of the library, which functions as UW's only North American history and government documents library.
 (see above -- .5 FTE)
2. Elimination of conservation lab position
Impact: There are only 1.5 FTEs associated with conservation of the collections. Elimination of the position would greatly slow efforts to perform a conservation assessment of the holdings and to flag items in need of repair or rehousing.
 (see above -- .5 FTE)
3. Elimination of Burial Sites Program
Impact: There would be no entity to identify and protect burial sites, respond to burial sites emergencies, serve as a point of contact between the state and Native American groups re burials, complete human skeletal analyses from discovered sites prior to final disposition.
 (2 FTEs) (\$90,300)
4. Elimination of Underwater Archaeology Program
Impact: There would be no entity to meet responsibilities under federal law to care for underwater resources and no staff to administer numerous permits for conducting underwater archaeology and salvage on state lands. We would lose the opportunity to apply for federal grants (Commerce, NPS) for maritime archaeology projects.
 (1 FTE) (\$70,100)
5. Elimination of Archives records appraisal position
Impact: This eliminates a position for the project to screen and dispose of large quantities of public records that are no longer needed for retention. It will slow the project, which is creating badly needed space in a building that is virtually full.
 (1 FTE) (\$36,700)

6. Elimination of pass-through to Wisc. Black Historical Society

(\$31,100)

Impact: This would probably force the closure of the BHS's museum. We are its major remaining source of funding.

7. Elimination of Museum's public programs staffer

(1 FTE)

(\$48,200)

Impact: This position is responsible for coordinating special programs, lectures, exhibit openings, demonstrations--9,500 attendees last year--marketing of services, and third-party rental of Museum spaces. There would be some negative impact on revenue to this cut.

**Statement by UW System Board of Regents President Michael Grebe
to the Joint Committee on Finance
March 19, 1997**

Co-chairs Burke and Jensen, and members of the Joint Committee on Finance. Thank you for the invitation to appear before you, on behalf of my colleagues on the Board of Regents, to underscore the importance of this budget for University of Wisconsin System students, faculty and staff.

By many measures of performance and value, a UW System education remains among the best in the world today. A key reason is the long-standing partnership between the State and the University ... a partnership which has resulted in a continuing investment of resources and the creation of a priceless asset for the people of our state.

The UW System exists today in a period of intense change, competition, and opportunity. The governor's budget recommendation to fund distance education and instructional technology initiatives is evidence of this new era in higher education, as well as the need to move forward to stay competitive and take full advantage of new opportunities to better serve our students and the state.

The excellence that typifies every UW institution is also tied directly to the quality, performance, and leadership of our faculty and academic staff. And on that subject, today I want to highlight the important challenge we face -- as partners in Wisconsin's future -- to do everything that we can to maintain a competitive level of faculty and staff compensation through the coming biennium. The need is real. And the time is now.

Heading into the 1997-99 budget cycle, UW System President Katharine Lyall proposed that the Board of Regents request a 5.1 percent unclassified pay plan increase for each year of the biennium, to bring these salaries back to market levels by the end of fiscal year 1999.

The regents chose to recommend a 4 percent pay plan increase per year to the governor -- not because we disagreed with President Lyall's methodology, but because we felt that this movement to "market" should be accomplished over a longer period than two years to lessen the burden on UW students and the state.

It is essential that the unclassified pay plan not fall below the 4 percent level if we are to maintain quality faculty and replace our retiring faculty with teachers of equal promise. Salary increases similar to the 1 percent and 2 percent of the last two years would accelerate retirements and exacerbate recruitment problems, and would result in another round of costly catch-up pay down the road. Such trends would soon undermine the quality and value of a UW education -- at any price. As others have noted, it's much better to "keep up" than to "catch up."

I want to say in very simple terms that unless we are successful in providing competitive compensation for our faculty and staff, the quality of education provided to our students will decline. The results will be measurable. And the decline will be felt systemwide -- from Madison to River Falls, and Milwaukee to Stevens Point.

I say this not as a threat, or as an unfounded prediction. I tell you this as a statement of what we know to be true.

In 1992, the Governor's bipartisan Commission on UW System Compensation conducted an exhaustive study of compensation in higher education. After months of discussion, expert testimony, public input and analysis, the Commission determined that the level of compensation for UW System faculty and academic staff was not adequate.

I served as vice-chair of the Commission. Among the testimony that I found most disturbing was the report from UW chancellors concerning their challenge in competing with other institutions in hiring and retaining bright, young faculty members. I mention this, specifically, because of a report received by the regents just last week that predicts as much as 25 percent of our current systemwide faculty will retire within the next five to seven years. We will see a turnover that is double that of the prior five to seven years, making it urgent that the UW System be able to offer competitive salaries to new faculty.

The 1992 Compensation Commission also found that the state compensation process, of which the UW System is a part, is complicated and layered, that it produces wide fluctuations in pay increases from one biennium to the next, and that the below-market salaries that result do, in fact, affect morale. After 10 years of catching up, faculty and academic staff compensation has slipped once again below the average of peer institutions.

The Board of Regents and participating legislators heard these concerns again last year, in the statewide public hearings that contributed to the work of the regents' *Study of the UW System in the 21st Century Study*. Both the 21st Century Study and the Compensation Commission led to findings and recommendations that tie the future quality and performance of the University to the provision of competitive compensation.

I believe that we must move forward in addressing these concerns. I believe the time for action is now -- so that we can adequately plan for the retirement and replacement of a large portion of our faculty in the near future. A 4% pay plan ensures that educational quality and service to our students and the state are maintained through the biennium.

The state has a long practice of paying for two-thirds of instructional costs, including pay plan, with GPR. We would hope that could continue. But, knowing that in the current fiscal environment your decisions do not come easily, I would also like to take this opportunity to comment briefly on the governor's proposal to grant the Board of Regents authority spend up to 105 percent of the appropriated tuition amount and then target those funds for compensation and other adjustments.

I believe this flexibility recognizes the UW's unique needs and offers a way to fund important items not included in the governor's budget, such as improved student advising, enhanced access to technology, and competitive compensation. This flexibility could be utilized to help the UW System achieve its goal of raising compensation to the midpoint of peer institutions, should the state pay plan fall short.

I want to emphasize, however, that the best way to move our institutions forward -- to preserve quality programs for our students, to compete successfully in the higher education marketplace, and to take full advantage of new opportunities offered through technology -- the best way to move forward is to support a pay plan that recognizes, up front, the value of the UW System to Wisconsin's economic future.

I urge your support of the 4% pay plan figure, and of the tuition flexibility that can help us meet the urgent needs of our students, faculty and staff alike.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you might have of me. Thank you.



State Historical Society of Wisconsin

816 State Street ♦ Madison, Wisconsin 53706-1488 ♦ 608/264-6400 ♦ Fax: 264-6404

March 19, 1997

TO: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance
FROM: George Vogt, Director
SUBJECT: Northern Great Lakes Center

In its 1997-99 operating budget submission, the Society requested 1.0 GPR position and \$68,100 GPR in 1997-98 and 3.0 GPR positions and \$165,500 GPR in 1998-99 for the operation of the Northern Great Lakes Center, presently under construction in Ashland.

Attached is a more extensive narrative relating to the Society's original request. Since that request was submitted, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has decided not to participate in the operation of the Center -- leaving the Society as the only state agency with space in the new building. Although the Society assumed its share of the joint operating costs of the new facility would be 18% of such total costs in its original request, that figure has increased to 25% with the DNR's pullout.

In the 1997-99 operating budget narrative, the Governor recommended creating a 0.5 GPR position and \$34,100 GPR in 1997-98 and a 1.0 GPR position and \$59,800 GPR in 1998-99. The Society does not believe the Governor's recommendations are adequate to accomplish the purposes intended.

Northern Great Lakes Center Operations

The Society requests \$68,100 GPR and 1.0 GPR position in 1997-98 and \$165,500 GPR and 3.0 GPR positions in 1998-99 for shared and its own operating costs for the federal-state Northern Great Lakes Center presently under construction in Ashland.

The Northern Great Lakes Center is a joint project planned by the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Society, Department of Natural Resources and University of Wisconsin Extension and local citizen groups in the Ashland area. Although planning for the building began more than a decade ago, the Society became involved with the project in 1992. Federal and state funding have been authorized for a building, which is presently under construction. Individual agencies and organizations with a planned presence in the building are working to secure needed operational funding.

The joint facility will provide an estimated 125,000 to 250,000 visitors with historical, environmental and recreational information about the Lake Superior region of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. Consistent with that mission and to better serve northern Wisconsin, the Society plans to establish a regional history center in the new facility which will be part of the Society's Area Research Center (ARC) Network. The Society will provide a variety of archival and other agency services in its share of the space -- including information and services related to state and local history, historic preservation, archeology, genealogy and heritage tourism.

The Society's Archives program will (a) house local government records, private manuscripts and microfilmed newspapers from seven or more northern counties, (b) help identify significant historical collections that should be preserved and assist local historical societies document the history of their communities and (c) provide technical assistance to local governments on records management and preservation. Center staff will also provide educational information to teachers and students and provide local communities and residents with information on heritage tourism and about historic preservation programs.

The present schedule is for the new building to be completed in the fall of 1997, although the facility will not be fully operational until the spring of 1998. In light of that schedule, the Society proposes to recruit and hire a Director for the history center portion of the building by January 1998. Besides coordinating use of the Society's share of space, this position would work with representatives of the other agencies and organizations with a presence in the building to determine how to share common responsibilities. The position would also begin to provide Society services in 1997-98 and coordinate the recruitment and hiring of an Archivist and a Program Assistant to begin in the fall of 1998 -- when the full array of above services could be provided to visitors.

Marquette University School of Dentistry Testimony
Joint Finance Committee Hearing
March 19, 1997

MUSOD Representatives: Mr. John F. Bergstrom, Trustee, Marquette University
Dr. Thomas S. Rypel, Interim Dean, Marquette University
School of Dentistry
Ms. Rana H. Altenburg, Director of Governmental Relations
Marquette University

Ms. Altenburg: Co-Chairmen Senator Burke and Representative Jensen, Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you this afternoon. I am the Director of Governmental Relations at Marquette University. With me this afternoon are two Marquette representatives who will comment briefly on the relationship between Marquette University and the State of Wisconsin, especially as that pertains to budget matters. First will be Mr. John F. Bergstrom, a member of the University's Board of Trustees. He will touch on the dental education and oral health care missions that link Marquette and the State in a unique partnership and also tell you why funding for that partnership ought to be increased in order to better serve citizens in outlying areas of the State. Trustee Bergstrom will be followed by Dr. Thomas S. Rypel, the Interim Dean of the School of Dentistry. He will focus on how dental education and oral health care delivery can be improved by creating additional remote dental clinics.

In recognition of the lengthy session the Committee has already experienced today, our presentation will be concise and brief, but all three of us will be pleased to respond to Committee Member questions and provide additional background should that be desired. Trustee Bergstrom....

Trustee Bergstrom: Co-Chairmen and Members. I am delighted to have this opportunity to address you this afternoon and convey to you the appreciation of the entire Board of Trustees for the support the State of Wisconsin has provided over the years to the Marquette University School of Dentistry. This has truly been a productive public/private partnership, one which has allowed the only School of Dentistry in the State of Wisconsin to form a close working relationship with State government in order to supply the citizens of Wisconsin with not only most of its future dentists, but also high quality oral health care at several clinic locations in the State.

This partnership began in the early 1970s, when the first contract was forged between Marquette and the State, the so-called capitation contract which allows Wisconsin residents to enroll as dental students at a reduced tuition level. In the late 1980s the partnership was broadened in order to bring more students and faculty members into a direct care delivery system, providing those services at three clinics in Milwaukee as well as new remote site clinics in Wild Rose and Cashton, Wisconsin. More than 13,000 patients received oral health care at those clinics last year, involving about 50,000 patient visits. This volume of oral health treatment does not include the several dozen regular screening programs which dental faculty members and students conduct in a variety of schools, neighborhood activity centers, nursing homes, institutions and the

like. I assure you that the entire Board of Trustees is intensely interested in all of this activity, since we believe it represents a merging of Marquette's educational mission with actual health care delivery. That is public service in its truest form.

Some of the Committee Members may recall the product of the Governor's 1993 Commission on Oral Health. After an extensive review of the several alternatives which were available to the State for the purpose of insuring an adequate supply of future dentists in Wisconsin, the Commission recommended that the Marquette University School of Dentistry continue in its role as the principal provider of dental education. The Commission also recommended that the faculty be encouraged to undertake more research and that the School broaden its dental clinic activity. Specifically, the Commission urged the School to establish more clinics outside the Southeast Wisconsin region and focus particular attention on the Medical Assistance populations then lacking adequate oral health care. The Commission recommended the clinic expansion be funded by an additional \$500,000 in State funding annually.

Although the additional State funding was not provided in ensuing State budgets, the School of Dentistry reshaped its own operating budget, borrowed funds, and attracted some additional funding from a variety of public and private sources in order to open the two new, remote site clinics in Wild Rose and Cashton. As a result of these efforts, the existing operating deficit of the clinics was increased. Although the School is prepared programmatically to expand its remote site clinic network into potential sites in both Northwest and Northeast Wisconsin, it neither has the resources nor the capacity to incur additional debt.

Marquette University greatly appreciates the State funding the School of Dentistry and its students have received over the years. The Board of Trustees is grateful for the continued support which Governor Thompson has recommended in his Executive Budget for 1997-1999. However, I hope you will agree with me that an additional State expenditure of \$1 million in this budget for the provision of clinical services in remote sites would be a beneficial improvement in the overall conditions of oral health care in Wisconsin.

Dean Rypel will give you some insights on the importance of the clinics in both the educational and health care senses. Dean Rypel . . .

Dean Rypel: Co-Chairmen and Members. Trustee Bergstrom has outlined the reasons which we believe warrant the additional State investment of \$1 million in this biennial budget. I would like to explain how those funds would be used and who benefits from such clinics.

The two remote site clinics opened during the past three years are similar in some respects and quite different in others. For example, the Wild Rose clinic serves a migrant worker population during the growing season and a mostly MA patient population in the remaining months. The Cashton clinic reaches out well beyond its community borders, regularly serving clusters of Wisconsin citizens who did not have regular oral health care previously, the Amish community, for example.

The School of Dentistry establishes these remote site clinics only after local community leaders and dental practitioners agree that there is a need for this kind of service. In partnership

with local leaders and comprehensive community health centers, we find underutilized practice facilities and ask local dentists to join in the effort as preceptors. The students in the clinical years of dental education -- that's the third and fourth year of dental studies, as well as some very recent graduates who desire additional preparation for private practice -- divide their clinical experiences in a series of two or three week rotations. This presents some difficulties the farther the clinic site is from our main teacher classrooms in Milwaukee, but our experiences in Wild Rose and Cashton suggest that both students and faculty members have become quite good at balancing the time devoted to teaching/learning with that devoted to delivering care in the clinics. The School juggles the ancillary cost challenges, finding residential quarters, solving transportation problems, assigning faculty members at a pace and in a method which does not disrupt teaching or research schedules, etc. We are excited about the expansion of the fiber optics cable network. This technology can enable distance learning for students who are away from campus while providing service at the remote clinics. The beneficiaries truly are all the parties involved including the students who learn about oral health conditions they might not experience elsewhere, faculty who continue the teaching process in a real, live circumstance, communities which might not otherwise have the advantage of a teaching clinic on Main Street USA, and the patients themselves, more often than not citizens who would not have the opportunity for such close attention to oral disease, nutrition and individual treatment.

As Trustee Bergstrom has said, all of us at the Marquette University School of Dentistry appreciate the partnership which brings Marquette together with the State via the two contractual relationships. At the same time, we believe more can be accomplished in the interest of better oral health care statewide. For those reasons I hope you will consider enacting the expanded remote site dental clinic network expansion recommendation of the 1993 Commission.

Thank you for your time and courtesy. We will be pleased to answer your questions.



Wisconsin Technical College System Board

Edward Chin, State Director

Testimony Before the Joint Committee on Finance

March 19, 1997

Edward Chin, State Director

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee to highlight and comment upon those aspects of the budget bill which impact the Technical College System. We appreciate the interest and support the Committee has extended to the System over the years and we trust that we have been good partners in wisely using the resources the Legislature has granted us and in implementing policies the Legislature has enacted. We are fully cognizant of the difficult task the Committee has to establish priorities among a great number of programs worthy of public support, especially in the context of the need to ensure property tax relief through funding of the K-12 System at two thirds of cost. As the Committee develops budget priorities, we hope you will keep in mind the importance of investing in the Technical Colleges as well, and how that investment is critical to our students and to providing the skilled workers who are central to the economic vitality of the state.

I. General State Aid

With specific reference to SB 77/AB 100, the bill before you proposes that General State Aid for the Technical Colleges be increased by 1% in each year of the biennium. (See LFB Summary, Page 657, Item #2.) This amount is insufficient to meet System needs. We certainly are appreciative of the effort the Governor made to generate a positive increase for the Technical Colleges, given the prior commitments to be kept and given the fact that a number of state agencies are proposed for net GPR reductions. Nevertheless, these 1% increases follow upon 0% increases for the current biennium and will continue to put a strain on local Technical College budgets.

Candidly, this biennium some of our districts needed to offset part of their revenue requirements through increases in their property tax levies after undertaking numerous economizing measures. But local pressure will keep the percentage of levy increases modest in future years. As a result, the Technical Colleges are faced with the dilemma of potentially reducing training opportunities at a time when they are being asked to provide more and more services for 16-18 year olds, W-2 clients, literacy students, the disabled, business and industry, displaced homemakers, and others. Thus, it is important for the Legislature to consider additional assistance for the Technical Colleges beyond the 1% levels, especially if the revenue picture is better in April when the Committee begins to make its decisions than in January when the Governor made his recommendations.

This agency originally requested the Governor to consider 4-1/2% increases in each year of the biennium to keep the System operating at its current level and keep property tax levies stable. That percentage may no longer be possible for the Legislature to meet, but I hope some improvement over 1% is possible. I remind the Committee that the state's participation in funding the Technical College System has slipped to 25% of aidable cost. While it was probably unreasonable for the System to think the state could maintain its percentage share during our years of rapid expansion, we now have a real concern about the diminishing percentage of support that would result from 0% General State Aids increases in 1995-97 and 1% increases for 1997-99. If the Legislature has the opportunity to increase our General State Aid, the return to the state in a better prepared workforce would be well worth it.

II. Educational Technology

On another important matter in the state budget, the Technical Colleges are especially appreciative of the Governor's proposal to support faculty development in the use of technology (LFB Summary, Page 658, Item #3). With these funds, each Technical College would establish Teacher Innovation Centers. These Centers will be the heart of the System's efforts to develop faculty in the application of technology to instruction. As part of the overall "TEACH Wisconsin" initiative, \$832,000 annually is earmarked for leading edge Technical College teachers to be sharing their expertise with their colleagues on how to incorporate the enormous potential of technology into improving the delivery of instruction.

Presently, the Technical Colleges are sharing numerous costly programs across district boundaries using telecommunications technology. For instance, the Dental Hygienist program is shared electronically among Northcentral, Fox Valley, Chippewa Valley, Western Wisconsin, Waukesha County, and Blackhawk. Radiography and Physical Therapy are other programs being electronically shared over distances. Beyond sharing programs, there is almost limitless opportunity to augment individual training programs by accessing the most current information about a subject, or the most effective presentation of complex instructional material. Assisting Technical College teachers in developing their skills in applying technology to instruction is essential to expanding educational opportunity to new learners and to improving its effectiveness.

An additional aspect of the "TEACH Wisconsin" initiative is to allow K-12 schools access to telecommunication networks for \$250 a month (LFB Summary, Page 573, Item #7). We believe all public educational institutions should be extended that option. Current telephone company charges are quite expensive, and we believe that both the University and Technical College Systems would greatly benefit from the reduced rates.

III. Other Fiscal Issues

There are several programs identified in Attachment 1 to my written testimony for which the System requested increases or initial funding, but which are not recognized in SB 77/AB 100. Time does not permit me to discuss each of them with you in detail at this hearing. They concern special services to target populations. While fully acknowledging the fiscal constraints the Legislature will be operating under to craft the 1997-99 budget, I request your review of these efforts to serve the disabled, displaced homemakers, and others.

I particularly note what might be considered unfinished business. Several years ago the Legislature committed funds to partially support transition services for disabled students in 8 of the 16 Technical College Districts. The original proposal recommended that all 16 districts have this capability available, but funding was available to assist only 8 districts at that time. Unfortunately, subsequent budgets have not addressed this uncompleted action. I am informed by those in the Technical College System who work with disabled

students that if there were one service to be provided that would most enhance the chances of academic success for disabled students, it would be the dedicated provision of transition services. The cost is modest, \$200,000 more each year of the biennium, but the impact would be considerable.

The last financial issue I will comment on is the proposed reduction of \$25,000 annually from the state agency's operational budget (LFB Summary, Page 658, Item #5). I recognize that all agencies are being reduced in their internal operations in some way, and I do not contest the proposed reduction. I do feel obligated to point out that my agency experienced drastic cuts of 16% and 19% of GPR support during the current biennium, and coupled with losses in federal revenue in recent years, our staff complement has been reduced by over 30% to 80.5 full-time permanent positions. If the revenue picture somehow worsens and further reductions in overall state operations are proposed, we ardently request to be absolved from additional cuts, given our recent history. We believe the staff has provided quality leadership and coordination to an outstanding educational system under very trying circumstances, and ask your understanding on this matter.

IV. Youth Options Program

We wholeheartedly support the "Youth Options Program" (LFB Summary, Page 482, Item #31). Currently, high school age students enroll in WTCS courses under a number of different arrangements, including at-risk students who can attend in lieu of high school, and highly motivated students who can take individual accelerated technical college level courses. The budget bill would expand the options to allow academically qualified students to attend technical college, on a full or part-time basis, in the 11th and 12th grade and those technical college courses would satisfy the academic requirements for a high school diploma issued by the school district. The program would be voluntary and the decision to participate would be made solely by students and their parents. There would be no cost to the student, except for consumable supplies. Payments would be made by the school district to the technical college. For students enrolled in 7 credits or more, the charge would be based on a prorated calculation of the originating school district's average cost per pupil for regular instruction and instructional support. Payments for 6 credits and less would be based on technical college tuition and fee charges.

We support this budget proposal as a means of allowing those students in high school who would like an additional academic challenge, or those who wish to experience solid technical education earlier in life, to have another educational option; and to empower parents to make the best educational choice for their children. The technical colleges have considerable experience in educating 16 to 18 year olds, and for those students who might chose this option, we can ensure them of a fulfilling academic path. Moreover, if they choose to continue at a technical college after completing their high school diploma, they will likely have made significant progress towards a technical college degree or diploma. With transferability to the University of Wisconsin System or private colleges more easily facilitated now, students will still maintain a baccalaureate degree option while having acquired an occupational skill. There are many benefits to this option.

Attachment 2 discusses several recommendations for changes to improve the statutory language related to youth options. We would be pleased to review these items with members of the Committee and Fiscal Bureau staff in greater detail at a more convenient time.

V. Other Statutory Changes

Finally, I would like to discuss three statutory changes in the budget bill. First, the bill would limit the amount that Technical College Districts can charge school districts for Youth Apprenticeship instruction to no more than the school district's average instructional cost per pupil (LFB Summary, Page 659, Item #8). Technical Colleges need the ability to recover their costs of providing services under a Youth Apprenticeship contract. Therefore, we question the reason for limiting the authority of a Technical College District to determine the appropriate contract amount with a school district, especially in those instances when due to the unique nature of the Youth Apprenticeship program, the cost may exceed the school district's average instructional costs.

Second, the budget bill would delete from the statutes the requirement for technical preparation (tech-prep) councils and consortia (LFB Summary, Page 660, Item #11). These entities serve an important function in the development and implementation of articulated curriculum agreements in order to provide students with a smooth transition from secondary school to technical college and to eliminate duplicate courses and loss of credit transfer. It is unclear why this provision is being eliminated.

Third, we have concerns regarding a proposed reporting requirement for our agency related to high school pupils receiving postsecondary credit (LFB Summary, Page 484, Item #31B). Specifically, the provision would require the State Board to annually report a list of the courses given in high schools for which pupils may receive postsecondary credit and the number of pupils enrolled in courses for postsecondary credit in the previous school year. We believe that the term "postsecondary credit" needs further clarification. If it refers to credit received for technical college courses, then our agency can certainly acquire this information from the Colleges. On the other hand, if it refers to high school courses in which students may be eligible for advanced standing upon enrollment in a technical college program, then it would be more appropriate to require school districts to report this information either to their respective Technical College Districts or to the Department of Public Instruction.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to present testimony. I again express my hope that if the revenue picture for the 1997-99 biennium improves, the Technical Colleges will be high on the Legislature's priority list.

ATTACHMENT 1

GPR Items for Which WTCS Board Requested Increases

	BASE YEAR 1996-97	AGENCY REQUEST		SB 77/AB 100 RECOMMENDATIONS	
		1997-98	1998-99	1997-98	1998-99
General State Aid	\$110,199,200	\$115,158,200	\$120,340,300	\$111,301,200	\$112,414,200
Faculty Development- Application of Technology	--	900,000	900,000	832,000	832,000
Displaced Homemakers	851,700	936,900	936,900	851,700	851,700
Women in Non-Traditional Occupations	--	400,000	400,000	0	0
Alcohol & Other Drug Abuse Counselors	525,000	540,800	557,000	525,000	525,000
Transition Services for Persons with Disabilities	200,000	400,000	400,000	200,000	200,000
Technology Loan Center for Students with Disabilities	--	100,000	100,000	0	0
Placement Services for Students with Disabilities - Demonstration Project	--	40,000	40,000 (sunset)	0	0

WTCS Items Reduced in SB 77/AB 100

Basic Skills Instruction in Correctional Institutions	- \$100,000	annually
State Agency Operations	-\$25,000	annually

ATTACHMENT 2

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONS TO THE BUDGET PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE YOUTH OPTIONS PROGRAM

Material Fees. The bill specifies that a pupil would not be responsible for any portion of the tuition and fees for a course taken at a technical college under the youth options program. In addition to tuition charges, students are assessed fees for consumable materials used in a course. These fees are established uniformly systemwide by the WTCS Board and vary by course category from a standard charge of \$3.50 per course (approximately 60% of the enrollments fall in this category) to over \$30 per credit for courses with high usage of consumable goods. Given the fact that high school pupils could enroll in courses with high material fees, we believe that any amount beyond the standard charge should be the pupil's responsibility and not the school district's or technical college's responsibility.

Special Education Costs. The bill would base the payment to the technical college on either tuition costs (6 credits or less) or the school district's per pupil costs for regular instruction plus instructional support services (7 credits or more). No reference is made to special education costs. It was the original intent that if a pupil with exceptional educational needs (EEN) attended a technical college under the youth options program, any additional cost associated with the pupil beyond regular instruction would be reflected in the payment. Therefore, we would recommend that in circumstances involving EEN pupils, the computation of tuition for special education costs under s. 121.83 of the statutes be used as the basis for determining the payment to technical colleges.

Initial Applicability Date. As drafted, the bill does not specify an initial date of applicability for the youth options program; therefore, the provisions would take effect on the general effective date of the budget bill. However, the Governor's Budget in Brief document states that the program would begin in the 1998-99 school year. We would concur with this delayed start-up date and would seek this clarification in the bill.

Exclusion of Remedial Courses. It was the original intent that the youth options program would be designed to serve students who are academically qualified to enroll in technical college associate degree or technical diploma courses. However, as drafted, the bill does not specifically exclude enrollment by high school students in remedial courses offered by technical colleges (such as basic skills courses). We believe that there is a need for such an exclusion in the bill. Current law already provides an opportunity for at-risk students to attend, in lieu of high school, alternative high school programs offered by technical colleges.